

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for obviousness over U.S. Patent No. 5,963,373 to Kayanoki. According to the Office Action, there is a confusion as to whether a film prepared from the claimed coating liquid starts to show photochromism and color from weathering at a particular weight ratio of iron oxide to titanium oxide.

Applicants hereby clarify that the weight ratio of 0.0005 to less than 0.005 is covered by the claims of the present application. Any extraneous comment appearing in the record of the present application that the weight ratio extends to 0.005 is not intended to indicate that such claimed matter extends beyond less than 0.005. This is consistent with the limitation of the weight ratio of iron oxide to titanium oxide in the originally filed claims

The graphical data provided in the Response filed December 29, 2003 shows a data point which, although following close to 0.005, does not fall on 0.005. The logarithmic scale of the graph submitted in the December 29, 2003 Response renders interpretation of that data point subject to potential confusion. In addition, to the extent that the record refers to metal oxides having a weight ratio of "0.005 to 0.005", that is not intended to alter what is claimed, namely, that the higher end of the weight ratio range is less than 0.005. The data shown in the December 29, 2003 Response is not intended to extend the claimed weight ratio up to 0.005.

The particular properties of the claimed coating liquid having no perceived photochromism or coloration from weathering are achieved using the iron oxide to titanium oxide weight ratios of 0.0005 to less than 0.005. These properties are not described in relation to the compositions of the Kayanoki patent. In fact, the Kayanoki patent indicates that an additional weather resistance agent is needed to protect the coating described therein. As such, the hard coating of Kayanoki having weight ratios which are higher than that of the present invention cannot achieve the properties as claimed. Again, the weight ratios in the Kayanoki patent are consistent with those of the Comparative Example of the present invention which exhibit coloration from weathering.

The independent claims 1 and 2 of the present application cover compositions that do not exhibit perceived photochromism or coloration from weathering. They are necessarily distinguishable from the compositions of Kayanoki which teach against such

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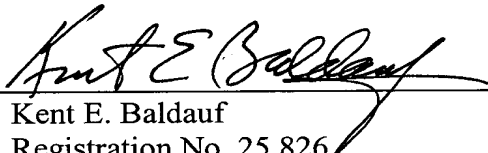
properties. To the extent that the iron oxide to titanium oxide weight ratios are close, Applicants have demonstrated a significant difference between the coating liquid of the present invention and that of the Kayanoki patent.

Accordingly, claims 1-14 are believed to define over the prior art and be in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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